



# State of Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control

## News Release

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### GRANT MONEY IMPROVES STATEWIDE LIQUOR TRAINING AND ENFORCEMENT

The Department of Liquor Licenses and Control (DLLC) is Arizona's regulatory agency for almost 11,700 liquor-licensed businesses in the state. DLLC was recently awarded a \$31,000 grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) to enhance liquor enforcement and education statewide. Since July 2011, it is estimated that 1,500 law enforcement officers and liquor licensees have received fake ID training, and more than 1,800 criminal liquor citations were written (a 10% increase).

Joe Vernier, DLLC's Deputy Director responsible for the Investigation Division, explains, "In Arizona, a liquor officer's primary focus is to eliminate the sale of liquor to underage persons. Until recently, anyone with \$200 and an Internet connection could order a fake ID. With the main supplier of fake IDs now out of business, hundreds of thousands of fake IDs of excellent quality remain in circulation to access liquor. To identify the features that render a fake ID to be invalid, officers and licensees require hours of training because each state may have two or more versions of IDs. The good news is that trained officers and licensees are taking fake IDs off of the street every day."

Vernier continues, "Because Arizona is home to three universities, we have an extraordinary amount of fake IDs used near the Flagstaff, Tucson, Tempe and Phoenix campuses. To combat the influx of fake IDs being brought into the state by students, DLLC officers provide free fake ID training to state, county, university and local law enforcement officers, in addition to a civilian course designed for liquor licensees and their staff. Creating the training materials and offering the training at no cost would be impossible without funding from this grant, and several other grants awarded to us by GOHS."

Alberto Gutier, Director of GOHS, explains, "In addition to training, these grants fund enforcement operations, equipment, travel and supplies needed for the statewide, multi-agency operations. With grant assistance, DLLC will continue to offer training and lead underage drinking enforcement collaborations during the holiday weekends and large special events that take place all over Arizona throughout the year."

Citizens concerned about the sale of liquor to underage persons are encouraged to call 1-877-668-5345, Arizona's Underage Drinking Hotline. Violations may also be reported using the link on the homepage of the website at [www.azliquor.gov](http://www.azliquor.gov).

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